

HD 314884: a slowly pulsating B star in a close binary

Christopher B. Johnson,^{1★} R. I. Hynes,¹ T. Maccarone,^{2,3} C. T. Britt,² H. Davis, III,¹
P. G. Jonker,^{4,5,6} M. A. P. Torres,⁴ D. Steeghs,⁷ S. Greiss⁷ and G. Nelemans⁶

¹Department of Physics and Astronomy, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4001, USA

²Department of Physics, Texas Tech University, Box 41051, Lubbock, TX 79409-1051, USA

³Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, UK

⁴SRON, Netherlands Institute for Space Research, Sorbonnelaan 2, 3584 CA Utrecht, the Netherlands

⁵Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

⁶Department of Astrophysics/ IMAPP, Radboud University Nijmegen, Heyendaalseweg 135, 6525 AJ Nijmegen, the Netherlands

⁷Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK

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ABSTRACT

We present the results of a spectroscopic and photometric analysis of HD 314884, a slowly pulsating B star (SPB) in a binary system with detected soft-X-ray emission. We spectrally classify the B star as a B5V–B6V star with $T_{\text{eff}} = 15\,490 \pm 310$ K, $\log g = 3.75 \pm 0.25$ dex, and a photometric period of $P_0 = 0.889\,521(12)$ d. A spectroscopic period search reveals an orbital period for the system of $P_{\text{orb}} = 1.3654(11)$ d. The discrepancy in the two periods and the identification of a second and third distinct frequency in the photometric Fourier transform at $P_1 = 3.1347(56)$ and $P_2 = 1.517(28)$ d provides evidence that HD 314884 is an SPB with at least three oscillation frequencies. These frequencies appear to originate from higher order, non-linear tidal pulsations. Using the dynamical parameters obtained from the radial-velocity curve, we find the most probable companion mass to be $M_1 = \sim 0.8\,M_{\odot}$ assuming a typical mass for the B star and most probable inclination. We conclude that the X-ray source companion to HD 314884 is most likely a coronally active G-type star or a white dwarf, with no apparent emission lines in the optical spectrum. The mass probability distribution of the companion star mass spans 0.6–2.3 M_{\odot} at 99 per cent confidence which allows the possibility of a neutron star companion. The X-ray source is unlikely to be a black hole unless it is of a very low mass or low binary inclination.

Key words: stars: pulsations – X-rays: binaries.

1 INTRODUCTION

Slowly pulsating B stars (SPBs) are typically mid- to late-type B stars that show photometric periods from 0.5 to 5 d and masses ranging from 4.0 to 7.0 M_{\odot} (Waelkens 1991). The effective temperature range of known SPBs is between 10 000 and 20 000 K with dense frequency spectra showing low-amplitude multiperiodicity. The pulsations are high-order, low-degree, gravity-mode (g-mode) pulsations that are driven by the κ -mechanism of the Fe opacity bump at $T \approx 1.5 \times 10^5$ K (Dziembowski, Moskalik & Pamyatnykh 1993). Their existence and close relation to the δ Sct stars provides an excellent test bed for probing the deepest layers of the stellar atmosphere through the use of asteroseismology.

Early-type stars have been known to be X-ray sources for quite some time now. The existence of X-ray emission from massive O

and B stars was predicted decades ago by Cassinelli & Olson (1979) and was serendipitously discovered at the same time during early observations using the *Einstein* satellite. The X-ray properties of O and B stars were constrained more accurately by Berghöfer et al. (1997) using the *ROSAT* All-Sky Survey. Equipped with 237 detections, Berghöfer et al. (1997) confirmed the decline in the detection rate towards later spectral types (all stars of spectral type O7 or earlier were detected as X-ray sources, while at most 10 per cent of B3–B9 stars were detected). This fact, and a higher incidence of variability and binarity among the later spectral types, led to the conclusion that low-mass companions could be responsible for the X-ray emission of late-B stars. This can be interpreted in one of two ways. (1) A matter stream exists between the B star and the companion due to Roche lobe overflow (RLOF). The stripped matter impacts the accretion disc causing X-ray emission at the impact point. (2) The low-mass companion is coronally active, which is to be expected since such companions must be very young and have not had enough time to slow their rotational speed yet.

★ E-mail: cjoh285@lsu.edu

We report the discovery of a new SPB star found in the Galactic Bulge Survey (GBS). The GBS (Jonker et al. 2011) is a wide and shallow X-ray survey of two strips both above and below the Galactic bulge aimed at detecting such X-ray emission. The campaign is designed to look for X-ray binaries (XRB), specifically, low-mass X-ray binaries (LMXBs) harbouring black holes (BHs) or neutron stars (NS) to allow for mass measurements and the comparison of the number counts and orbital period distribution of these sources with the predictions of population synthesis modelling. Along with these compact objects, a number of GBS sources were identified with optically bright stars which include, but are not limited to, late B and A stars (Hynes et al. 2012).

The GBS X-ray source CXOGS J175637.0–271145 = CX514 ($V = 10.04$ mag) has coordinates that align with HD 314884, initially classified as a B9 star (Nesterov, Kuzmin & Ashimbaeva 1995). CX514 was found to have an X-ray luminosity of at least 1.3×10^{30} erg s $^{-1}$ and $\log(\frac{F_X}{F_{bol}}) = -5.4$ (Hynes et al. 2012), neither of which is consistent with a single late-type B star. We infer that this is either a chance alignment with HD 314884 or that the X-ray source is the binary companion to the B star. The 95 per cent confidence radius of uncertainty in the *Chandra* position is 3.4 arc-sec. The optical counterpart to CX514 (HD 314884) has also been identified as a new All Sky Automated Survey (ASAS) Catalogue (Pojmanski 2002) variable source ASAS ID# 175637-2711.8 suggesting that it may be an unusual source.

In this paper, we analyse the binary system composed of HD 314884 and its companion. We present phase-resolved optical spectroscopy and photometry of the optical counterpart drawn from several sources. Orbital parameters derived for the system are then used to constrain the mass of the X-ray source. We begin with a short introduction followed by discussing the observations, both photometric and spectroscopic, in Section 2. Section 3 discusses spectral classification and features of HD 314884. Section 4 describes the period analysis, whereas the radial-velocity curve parameters and mass function are determined in Section 5. Finally, the nature of the optical counterpart and the X-ray source is discussed in Section 6 followed by the conclusion.

2 OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

2.1 ASAS archival data

We began by collecting all the available *V*-band data from the ASAS All Star Catalogue of Photometry. ASAS monitored HD 314884 from 2001 until 2009 and is found in the ASAS-3 photometric *V*-band catalogue with data spanning MJD 51949.87862–55138.50718. We performed our final analysis using only the grade A or B observations for the smallest aperture which included 720 data points. This is the same data sample used in Hynes et al. (2012).

2.2 0.9 m SMARTS optical photometry

We observed HD 314884 on 2012 June 1 until 2012 June 8 using the 0.9 metre Small and Moderate Aperture Research Telescope System (SMARTS) Consortium telescope at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) with an aim at ruling out one day aliases inherent in the ASAS data. We collected 22 observations in the SDSS r' filter with an average exposure time of 60 s. Sky flats were obtained in the beginning of the night in each of the filters with varying exposure times. Biases and dome flats were obtained at the end of every night. Standard data reduction techniques were used

Table 1. Table of spectroscopic data collection.

Date observed	UT start	MJD	Exp. time (s)
2012 August 01	20:36:15.442	56140.858512	300
2012 August 01	20:41:42.834	56140.862301	300
2012 August 03	23:00:14.400	56142.958500	300
2012 August 03	23:05:49.381	56142.962377	300
2012 August 04	22:36:45.401	56143.942192	300
2012 August 04	22:42:12.978	56143.945984	300
2012 August 05	23:47:56.222	56144.991623	300
2012 August 05	23:53:29.390	56144.995479	300
2012 August 06	22:16:40.483	56145.928246	300
2012 August 06	22:22:08.115	56145.932038	300
2012 August 08	00:01:13.356	56147.000849	300
2012 August 08	00:06:47.980	56147.004722	300
2012 August 08	22:58:37.248	56147.957376	300
2012 August 08	23:04:04.668	56147.961165	300
2012 August 09	22:28:32.045	56148.936482	300
2012 August 09	22:33:59.714	56148.940274	300
2012 August 10	21:23:01.776	56149.890993	300
2012 August 10	21:28:29.879	56149.894790	300
2012 August 13	21:35:03.811	56152.899350	300
2012 August 13	21:40:32.820	56152.903158	300
2012 August 14	22:47:46.790	56153.949847	300
2012 August 14	22:53:14.352	56153.953638	300

(bias subtraction, flat-fielding, etc.) with the aid of IRAF¹ packages and tools.

2.3 Optical spectroscopy

Optical spectroscopy was obtained with the 2.0 m Liverpool Telescope at the Observatorio del Roque de Los Muchachos in La Palma, Spain. Spectra were collected using the Fibre-fed Robotic Dual-beam Optical Spectrograph, or FRODOSpec instrument². Table 1 shows the spectroscopic data collection for HD 314884. CX514 was observed with both the blue-high grating with a wavelength range of 3800–5150 Å and the red-high grating with a wavelength range of 5700–8050 Å. The dispersion in the blue range is 0.35 Å pixel $^{-1}$ with a resolution of 0.8 Å at the central wavelength of 4495.6 Å. The dispersion inherent in the red range is 0.58 Å pixel $^{-1}$ with a resolution of 1.3 Å at a central wavelength of 6827 Å. Exposure times on both sets of observations were 300 s each. The spectra were reduced by using two sequentially invoked FRODOSpec pipelines. The first pipeline, known as the L1, is a CCD processing pipeline which performs bias subtraction, overscan trimming, and CCD flat fielding. The second pipeline, known as the L2, performs the spectroscopic data extraction. The pipeline-reduced data have a zero-point magnitude of 15.1 and 14.2 in the AB magnitude system for the red and blue gratings, respectively. The wavelength-calibrated spectra have a final accuracy of 0.08 Å. The spectra were then normalized with standard IRAF tools and packages by dividing by a spline fit to the continuum of order 10. The FRODOSpec pipeline and instrument specifications are described in detail online.²

¹ IRAF is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

² <http://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/TelInst/Inst/FRODOSpec/>

3 SPECTRAL CLASSIFICATION AND FEATURES

We begin the spectral classification by comparing the spectral range 3900–5100 Å of the counterpart to several known MK standards of spectral type B. By visual inspection of Fig. 1, we can see the weak presence of several He I lines along with the C II and Mg II lines. The most notable lines would be the Balmer lines with the presence of He I lines of $\lambda\lambda 4026, 4143, 4387, \text{ and } 4471$. Several helium and metal lines can be used to aid in classifying the spectrum of the counterpart. The He I $\lambda 4009$ is prominent down to spectral type B3, then starts to get weaker at B5 before disappearing at B8. This feature is very weak in the HD 314884 spectrum. The ratio of He I $\lambda 4471/\text{Mg II } \lambda 4481$ is also a useful indicator used to distinguish between mid- to late-type B stars. The neutral He I $\lambda 4471$ line weakens and disappears as the Mg II $\lambda 4481$ strengthens when approaching lower temperatures (Gray & Corbally 2009) in late-type B stars.

We measured the He I $\lambda 4471/\text{Mg II } \lambda 4481$ ratio to be 1.42 ± 0.02 for all 22 spectra. We rule out spectral classes B8V–B9V based on the He I $\lambda 4471/\text{Mg II } \lambda 4481$ ratio < 1.00 due to the stronger Mg II $\lambda 4481$ as the T_{eff} approaches cooler temperatures. We then measured the He I $\lambda 4471/\text{Mg II } \lambda 4481$ ratio for several MK standards of types B0V–B9V as a comparison. On average, the B0V–B4V spectra had an He I $\lambda 4471/\text{Mg II } \lambda 4481$ ratio $> 1.55 \pm 0.02$. We find that these indicators, along with the weakness of C II $\lambda 4267$, point to a B5V–B6V classification for the optical counterpart.

A grid of synthetic spectra (Munari, Castelli & Zwitter 2005) was then used to match the absorption features to determine approximate spectral parameters of the optical counterpart. We subtracted each template spectrum from the Doppler-corrected average of our Liverpool Telescope observations. The grid of spectra included B4V–B7V stars with varying T_{eff} and $\log g$. We adopt a $v_r \sin i = 45 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ from our initial best fit of the line widths to synthetic line profiles. At every point on the synthetic spectra grid, the best fit was found by performing a χ^2 minimization on the residuals of the subtraction. The best fit obtained shows HD 314884 as having a $T_{\text{eff}} = 15\,490 \pm 310 \text{ K}$ and $\log g = 3.75 \pm 0.25 \text{ dex}$. From our spectral analysis, the values obtained are in agreement with known B5V–B6V stars contained in Eric Mamajek’s online

list.³ We point out that there appear to be no emission lines present in Fig. 1, which argues against mass transfer from the donor star. We confirm this by Doppler correcting and broadening our Liverpool spectra by an appropriate amount found by looking at the full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the absorption lines in the spectral range 3900–5100 Å using IRAF and the SPLOT task. A broadening of 45 km s^{-1} was applied to each spectrum. In a similar manner as above, we then subtracted each from an MK spectral standard B6V template spectrum confirming the absence of residual emission.

4 PHOTOMETRIC PERIOD ANALYSIS

Using the ASAS-3 archival data, we performed an initial period search on the data using the software package PERIOD⁴ in the frequency range of 0.01–1000 cycles d^{-1} in frequency intervals of 0.000 01 cycles d^{-1} . PERIOD is a time series analysis package designed to search for periodicities in data sets. We used the Lomb–Scargle technique to produce a periodogram and search for the maximum peak in the power spectrum for a given data set.

The error on the period (along with all of the rest of the errors in this paper, unless otherwise noted) were estimated by using a bootstrapping technique with a Monte Carlo approach much like Steeghs & Jonker (2007). We copied the target data set 10 000 times where the input data set is resampled by randomly selecting data points. The data points are allowed to be resampled more than once during the sampling and then each data set ‘copy’ was subjected to fitting an appropriate function to the data and allowing the parameters to vary. For each bootstrap copy, the minimum χ^2 was calculated and the best-fitting parameters were found. Besides providing the best-fitting parameter, the 1σ error for each parameter is calculated. This error estimating technique is used for both the photometric and spectroscopic analysis of the data.

The ASAS period search confirmed the V-band photometric period of 0.889 521(12) d which is within the quoted 1σ error of the photometric period reported by Hynes et al. (2012) along with the 8 d alias, the sampling frequencies, and the harmonics (all of which can be seen in Fig. 2). The nine years of ASAS-3 archival data were inspected year by year and as a complete data set to look for any variations on the 0.889 521(12) d period. Fig. 2 shows the periodogram of the data. We identify two ‘distinct’ frequencies when analysing the data. The 0.889 521(12) d period corresponds to a frequency ‘ f_0 ’ and will be referred to as such throughout the paper. The second distinct frequency, ‘ f_1 ’, corresponds to a 3.1347(56) d period and is found dominating year 7 of the data set in Fig. 2. The aliases of f_1 are also labelled in the year 7 data. This signal is present in several other years but is weak. The f_0 frequency is recovered in years 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9, while no substantial frequency was recovered above the background noise in year 8. In Fig. 2, we label the one day sampling frequency as ‘ f_s ’ along with its harmonics. Years 3 and 5 do not show any significant signal above the 3σ level for each of the two data sets.

A Lomb–Scargle frequency search of the 0.9 m SMARTS data concluded in a period of 1.517(28) d, corresponding to f_2 . The light curve is shown in the middle panel of Fig. 3. Neither f_0 nor f_1 were reproducible in the SMARTS data set and f_2 is not at all present above the noise in any of the yearly ASAS-3 data sets in Fig. 2.

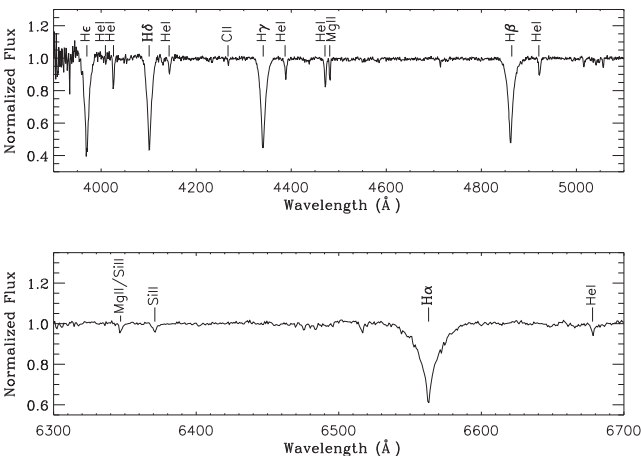


Figure 1. Normalized spectra of HD 314884 with the top panel showing the blue end and the bottom showing the red end of the spectrum. Prominent spectral lines are marked.

³ <http://www.pas.rochester.edu/~emamajek/spt/B6V.txt>

⁴ <http://www.starlink.rl.ac.uk/docs/sun167.htm/sun167.html>

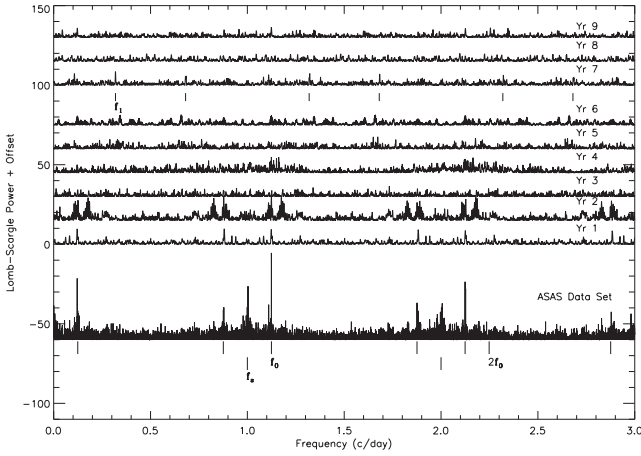


Figure 2. Yearly Lomb–Scargle periodograms of HD 314884 where 2001 is year 1. The bottom data set is the entire ASAS-3 data set. Several frequency peaks are labelled: f_0 corresponds to the 0.889 d period and the aliases; f_s is the one day sampling frequency and aliases; $2f_0$ is the second harmonic of f_0 . f_1 corresponds to the second distinct period of 3.13 d and aliases. Year 7 shows f_1 the best.

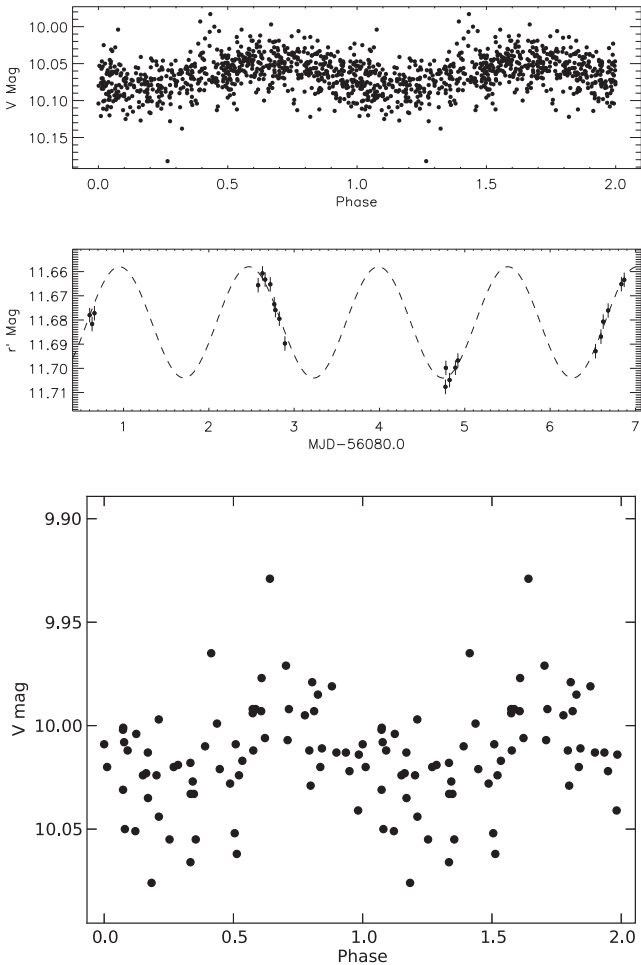


Figure 3. The top panel is the phase-folded light curve of the ASAS-3 archival data of HD 314884 on the 0.889 d period. The middle panel is the 0.9 m SMARTS light curve with a 1.517(28) d period sine curve plotted over the HD 314884 data. The bottom panel shows the phase-folded light curve of the ASAS year 7 on the period corresponding to f_1 from Fig. 2.

Folding the SMARTS data on either of these frequencies does very little to convince us that they are the correct frequencies for this data set and we conclude that f_2 is a *third* distinct frequency of this system.

5 DYNAMICAL ANALYSIS

5.1 Radial-velocity curve

The orbital Doppler shifts of the binary system consisting of HD 314884 and its companion were measured from the Mg II $\lambda 4481$ absorption lines in the spectra. An MK standard B6V template spectrum was chosen and each subsequent target spectrum was cross-correlated against this reference. Using the `FXCOR` task with other standard `IRAF` tasks, the radial velocities were determined and a Lomb–Scargle period search was performed on the data. An initial orbital period of $P_{\text{orb}} = 1.3665(61)$ d was recovered.

The radial-velocity curve was then fitted with a sine wavefunction of the form: $y(\phi) = \gamma + K_2 \sin(2\pi\phi + \psi)$ with all parameters allowed to vary. The best fit was found by using χ^2 minimization. We find that with a $\chi^2 = 37.14$ and 21 degrees of freedom, this gives a $\chi^2_{\text{red}} = 1.76$ resulting in the following parameters:

$$P_{\text{orb}} = 1.3654 \pm 0.0011 \text{ d}$$

$$K_2 = 49.0 \pm 2.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$$

$$\gamma = -15.4 \pm 0.6 \text{ km s}^{-1}$$

$$T_0 = 245\,6141.395 \pm 0.003 \text{ (JD)}$$

The phase-folded radial-velocity curve can be seen in Fig. 4. The errors bars for these parameters are the result of $\Delta\chi^2$ except for P_{orb} which was found from the bootstrapping technique discussed above. The systemic velocity can be prone to systematic calibration errors, but the independent sampling over multiple nights helps mitigate the problem.

We then looked at the FWHM variations of several absorption features inherent in the spectra. For the Mg II $\lambda 4481$ line, we find that there is a peak in the Lomb–Scargle periodogram at f_0 for the data. The phase-folded light curve of the FWHM of the Mg II $\lambda 4481$ line can be seen in Fig. 5 with a folded period of 0.889 521 d. There is an apparent modulation corresponding to the fundamental frequency of HD 314884.

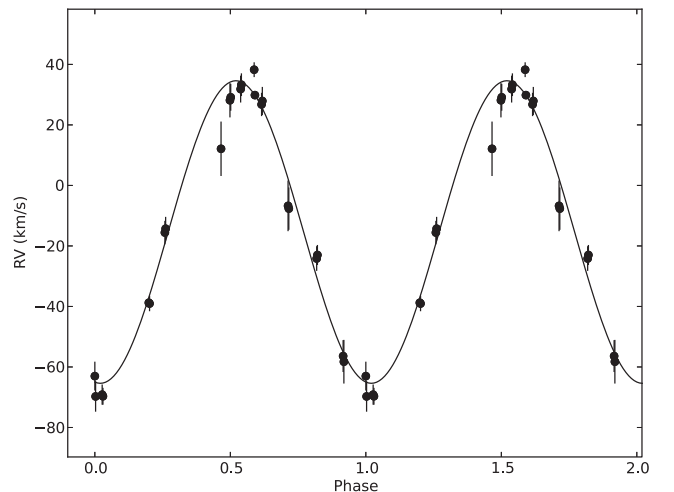


Figure 4. The phase-folded radial-velocity curve of HD 314884 and the unseen companion with the $P_{\text{orb}} = 1.3654(11)$ d.

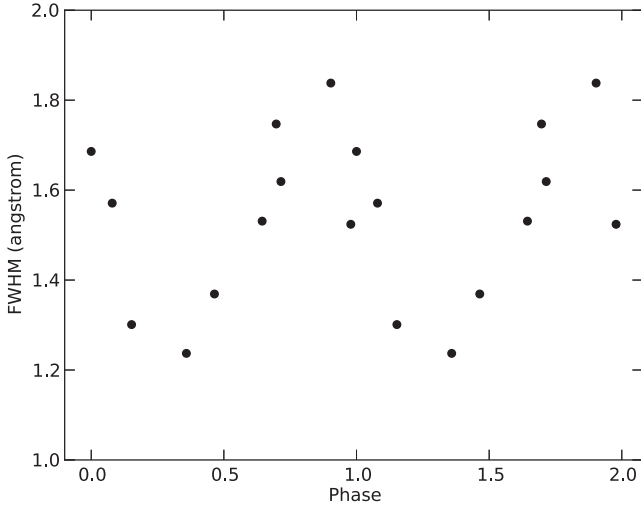


Figure 5. The FWHM variations of the Mg II $\lambda 4481$ spectral feature. The data is phase-folded on the 0.889 521 d period.

5.2 Masses of the stellar components

The mass function of the unseen companion found from the given parameters is: $f(M_1) : M_1 \frac{\sin^3 i}{(1+q)^2} = \frac{P_{\text{orb}} K_2^3}{2\pi G} = 0.0157 \pm 0.0021 M_{\odot}$, where $q = \frac{M_2}{M_1}$ is the mass ratio. The greatest uncertainty comes from the inclination angle, i , and the mass of the companion star, M_1 , when calculating the mass ratio. We used a Monte Carlo method sampling random inclination angles distributed as $\sin i$ and assumed B5V–B6V mass range of $4.1 M_{\odot} \leq M_2 \leq 4.5 M_{\odot}$ (uniformly distributed, see footnote 3). The result is a probability distribution of masses given these prior assumptions showing a peak at $\sim 0.8^{+0.3}_{-0.1} M_{\odot}$ in Fig. 6. The asymmetric errors quoted are due to the fact that the mass distribution is not Gaussian. This mass constraint places the unseen companion in the region of an active G-type star or a white dwarf. For the mass distribution data set, we find that the 99 per cent confidence region encloses a mass range of $0.6\text{--}2.3 M_{\odot}$. Although this mass range does not rule out an NS X-ray source, it can rule out a BH as the X-ray source unless it is of very low mass or the inclination is very low. Özel et al. (2010) found that for 16 stellar BHs, the mass distribution peaks at $7.8 \pm 1.2 M_{\odot}$. The cutoff mass at the low end is $\geq 5 M_{\odot}$ (95 per cent confidence), indicating a significant lack of BHs in the $\sim 2\text{--}5 M_{\odot}$ range. Farr et al. (2011) find

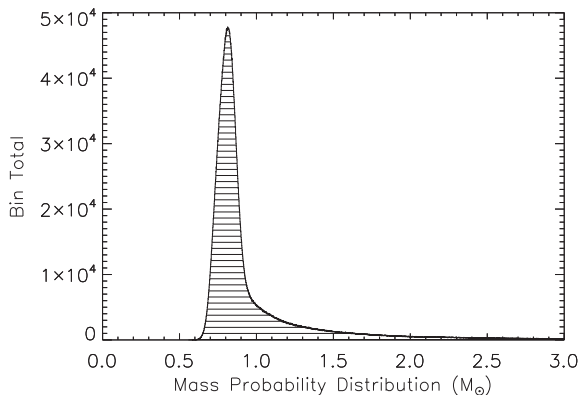


Figure 6. The mass distribution of the unseen companion generated by a Monte Carlo sampling routine for random inclination angles distributed as $\sin i$ and a B5V–B6V mass range of $4.1 M_{\odot} \leq M_2 \leq 4.5 M_{\odot}$ distributed uniformly. The peak corresponds to a most probable mass of $M_1 \approx 0.8 M_{\odot}$.

a somewhat lower bound of $\geq 4.3 M_{\odot}$ with 90 per cent confidence. Their results concerning the low-mass sample are in qualitative agreement with Özel et al. (2010), although the claim is made that their broad model analysis more reliably reveals a better quantitative description of the mass distribution.

6 DISCUSSION

The main observational characteristics of SPBs are a mid-B spectral type and multiperiodic oscillations inherent in their light curves of the order of days. The oscillations can be characterized as either p mode (frequencies of the order of ~ 30 min) or g mode (frequencies of the order of \sim days or longer) referring to pressure and gravity modes, respectively. The discovery of HD 314884 as an SPB came as a surprise during our analysis of the GBS source CX514. After the initial photometric period was confirmed using ASAS-3 data, two more distinct periods were uncovered in independent data sets that appear to be non-radial g-mode pulsations. Oscillation frequencies uncovered in photometric studies have frequently been used in precision mode identification to interpret the interior makeup of stars (Saesen et al. 2013) through the use of asteroseismologic techniques. The seismic modelling of SPBs relies on simultaneously fitting the observed frequencies and the empirical values of the f -parameter (Walczak, Szewczuk & Daszyńska-Daskiewicz 2012). The non-adiabatic complex f -parameter is defined as the ratio of the radiative flux change to the radial displacement of the photosphere. With the derived values of f and the observed frequencies, available opacity data can be tested along with the chemical composition and the overshooting efficiency of convective cores (Walczak et al. 2012). The discrepancy between the photometric periods and P_{orb} opens the door for this type of asteroseismic analysis on CX514. To perform accurate and precise mode identification, models that deal with cases where non-linear, tidal interactions are vital must be further developed and refined.

Given $P_{\text{orb}} = 1.3654(11)$ d and a B star mass range of $4.1 M_{\odot} \leq M_2 \leq 4.5 M_{\odot}$, we expect an orbital separation of $8.8\text{--}9.0 R_{\odot}$ making it one of the shortest known period, single lined binaries containing an SPB, similar to HD 24587 (Aerts et al. 1999), but significantly shorter than the SPB sample of De Cat et al. (2000). With the components being so close, tidal effects can play an important role in exciting pulsation frequencies through deformation of the stellar surface (De Cat et al. 2000). In a binary system with an eccentric orbit, a near resonance occurs when a stellar frequency is close to a multiple of the orbital frequency (Hambleton et al. 2011). Tidal resonance can also occur in close, circular orbits with the addition of g-mode frequencies summing to orbital harmonics. We find that $f_0 + f_1 \approx 2f_{\text{orb}}$ ($1.124\,200(12) \text{ d}^{-1} + 0.3190(6) \text{ d}^{-1} = 1.4432(1) \text{ d}^{-1}$, where $f_{\text{orb}} = 0.7323(5) \text{ d}^{-1}$) indicating a type of higher order, non-linear tidal process (Weinberg et al. 2012). None of the identified frequencies found were *multiples* of the orbital frequency.

The spectral energy distribution (SED) can be seen in Fig. 7. This is constructed with archival data from AAVSO Photometric All-Sky Survey DR7 (APASS, circles), Tycho (diamonds), Deep Near Infrared Survey of the Southern Sky (DeNIS, triangles), 2 Micron All Sky Survey (2MASS, pentagons), and the Galactic Legacy Infrared Mid-Plane Survey Extraordinaire (GLIMPSE, squares). The model is a Kurucz solar metallicity atmosphere (Castelli & Kurucz 2003) with a four way average of $T = 15\,000$ K, $\log g = 3.5, 4.0$, and $T = 16\,000$ K, $\log g = 3.5, 4.0$. If we assume the spectroscopic effective temperature derived above, we can fit this SED with an appropriate reddened Kurucz model atmosphere spectrum to estimate a

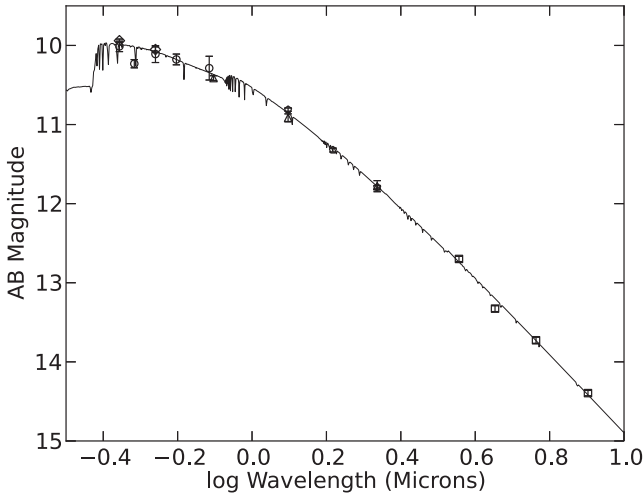


Figure 7. The SED for HD 314884. The data are drawn from APASS (circles), Tycho (diamonds), DeNIS (triangles), 2MASS (pentagons), and the GLIMPSE (squares). The model is a Kurucz solar metallicity atmosphere with a four way average of $T = 15\,000$ K, $\log g = 3.5, 4.0$ and $T = 16\,000$ K, $\log g = 3.5, 4.0$.

reddening of $E(B - V) \sim 0.22$. Assuming a typical main-sequence absolute K magnitude from Mamajek’s compiled list (see footnote 3), the K -band magnitudes from the 2MASS and the DeNIS imply a distance of ~ 1 kpc for HD 314884. This suggests that HD 314884 has an L_x of about 3×10^{30} erg s $^{-1}$.

If we assume an active G star as the companion to HD 314884, we can describe the source of soft X-rays as coming from solar-type coronal flares. We know from solar observations that magnetic phenomena are solely responsible for coronal activity and, in turn, the production and detection of X-rays. The same holds true for solar-like G stars except that stellar flare peak temperatures and emission measures can be orders of magnitude greater than that of the Sun (Johnstone et al. 2012). The range of L_x for G stars spans almost three orders of magnitude from a few times 10^{26} erg s $^{-1}$ to $(2-4) \times 10^{30}$ erg s $^{-1}$ (Maggio et al. 1987). Our inferred X-ray luminosity falls near the top end of this range, consistent with a G star near coronal saturation. The five X-ray photons from HD 314884 that were detected by *Chandra* span the soft end of the spectrum from 0.84–1.81 keV. Such soft X-ray detections have been shown to originate in plasma temperatures reaching above $T \sim 10^6$ K (Maggio et al. 1990) in the coronal layer of the star due to flaring activity.

We note the calculated luminosity above would be unusually low if the X-ray source were a quiescent accreting NS (see fig. 4 of Reynolds & Miller 2011). Jonker et al. (2007) also point out an exception with 1H 1905+000, which is an LMXB harbouring an NS. They inferred an X-ray luminosity limit of $1.7-2.4 \times 10^{30}$ erg s $^{-1}$ from 300 ks of *Chandra* observations. This is comparable to the luminosity we infer, so an NS companion cannot be ruled out based on the X-ray luminosity. A binary system with a young pulsar cannot be ruled out either since the inferred X-ray luminosity could support the idea as well.

Despite the absence of emission lines in the spectra, we cannot fully rule out mass transfer on to an accretion disc. We do want point out that due to the luminosity of the B6 star, emission in the spectra, if present, may be masked. We Doppler-corrected the spectra and then subtracted them from one another to look for residual emission lines and found none. Also, if mass transfer were present,

we would expect much more pronounced ellipsoidal modulations on the spectroscopic period in either of the data sets much like fig. 3 in Ratti et al. (2013).

We estimate the Roche lobe radius, $R_{L,2}$ for the B5V–B6V from Eggleton (1983) to be 4.6–4.8 R_\odot using the mass range $4.1 M_\odot \leq M_2 \leq 4.5 M_\odot$. The radius of a main-sequence B star would be approximately 3.0 R_\odot based on the parameters from the Mamajek compilation list (see footnote 3), not yet large enough to start accretion on to the G star by RLOF.

7 CONCLUSION

We performed a dynamical study of the GBS X-ray source CX514 through optical spectroscopy and photometry. The X-ray source coordinates provided by *Chandra* align with the bright ($V_{\text{mag}} = 10.04$) B star HD 314884, which appears to be the optical counterpart to CX514. The optical spectra are dominated by the absorption lines of HD 314884, with no evidence of emission features visible. We have reclassified HD 314884 as a B5V–B6V spectral type, SPB with at least three distinct oscillation frequencies. An initial photometric period search concluded in detecting two distinct periods in the ASAS-3 archival data. The dominant period of $P_0 = 0.889\,521(12)$ d along with a weaker, but prominent, $P_1 = 3.1347(56)$ d in the ASAS-3 archival data (Fig. 2) supports the claim of an SPB. Upon analysing the 0.9 m SMARTS data (Fig. 3, middle panel), a third distinct photometric period was found at $P_2 = 1.517(28)$ d. The observed photometric frequencies are reminiscent of g-mode pulsations and appear to show evidence of non-linear tidal resonances.

From phase-resolved spectroscopy, we find an orbital period of 1.3654(11) d from the radial-velocity curve with the phase-folded radial-velocity curve seen in Fig. 4. After fitting the radial-velocity curve with a sinusoidal function and finding the parameters with a χ^2 minimization technique, we solved the mass function $f(M_1)$: $M_1 \frac{\sin^3 i}{(1+q)^2} = \frac{P_{\text{orb}} K_2^3}{2\pi G} = 0.0157 \pm 0.0021 M_\odot$. Not knowing the inclination angle of the system, a Monte Carlo simulation was used to calculate the mass probability distribution of the unseen companion to HD 314884. We obtain a mass of $M_1 = 0.8_{-0.1}^{+0.3} M_\odot$ for the companion using a uniformly distributed B6 star mass (see footnote 3) for HD 314884. We find that this mass constraint places the X-ray source in the region of either an active G star or a white dwarf. Our calculated 99 percent confidence region ($0.6-2.3 M_\odot$) rules out the possibility of a BH as the unseen companion emitting X-rays unless it were of very low mass, or of very low inclination, which is unlikely. We cannot fully rule out an NS since observed XRB harbouring an NS have been confirmed with masses in this range (Kiziltan et al. 2013). Given the derived L_x of $\sim 3 \times 10^{30}$ erg s $^{-1}$, and our most probable mass estimate of $\sim 0.8 M_\odot$, we can say that an NS is unlikely for this system. The systemic radial velocity, distance estimate, and the proper motion for HD 314884 of -10.7 ± 1.5 mas yr $^{-1}$ (Hog et al. 1998) is consistent with a massive star that never travels far from the mid-plane of the disc. This would rule against a natal kick given to the system if the unseen companion were an NS.

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